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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 07001 061005Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /058 W
---------- 011449
P 060901Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5419
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 7001

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MY, SN
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW VISITING MALAYSIA

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 6952, (B) BANGKOK 32784, (C) SINGAPORE 5460

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM AND FINANCE MINISTER HON SUE SEN, WILL ARRIVE KUALA LUMPUR THIS AFTERNOON (DEC 6) FOR TWO DAY "UNOFFICIAL VISIT" AT INVITATION OF DATUK HUSSEIN ONN RECIPROCATING LATTER'S TRIP TO SINGAPORE LAST FEB 5. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT, THE TWO LEADERS WILL DISCUSS "MATTERS OF BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTEREST." DGBMJENGUATE "UTUSAN MALAYSIA" PREDICTS SPECIAL FOCUFFON REGIONAL MATTERS AFFECTING ASEAN MATIONS, WITH LEE EXPECTED TO BRIEF HUSSEIN ON HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND THAI PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAICICHIEN, AS WELL AS HIS VISIT TO PRC AND, MORE RECENTLY, TO AUSTRALIA. ACCORDING UM, LOCAL OBSERVERS DO NOT RPT NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY DISCUSSIONS MAY TOUCH ON POSSIBLE SECURITY ROLE

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FOR ASEAN IN LIGHT OF RECENT REMARKS BY THAI PM CITING

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COMMUNIST AND SUBVERSIVE THREATS TO SEVERAL ASEAN MEMBERS
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GRADUAL PHASING OUT OF SEATO (SIC).
UM ADDED THAT IT UNDERSTANDS FROM "KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES"
THAT WHILE VISITING AUSTRALIA LEE HAD EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST
IN DEFENSE AND SECURITY BECOMING AN AREA OF JOINT RESPONSIB-
ILITY AMONT THE ASEAN NATIONS. ECONOMIC MATTERS AND OTHER AREAS OF
COOPERATION, INCLUDING ANTI-DRUG SMUGGLING MEASURES ALSO
MIGHT BE DISCUSSED, UM OPINED.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE LEARNED NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS BEYONG PRESS
SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE ARREAS OF DISCUSSION. IN VIEW OF GOM'S
WELL KNOWN SENSITIVITY AGAINST ANY ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE
CONSTRUED BY INDOCHINESE COMMUNIST STATES AS FORMING
OPPOSITION MILITARY BOLC AGAINST THEM, GOM IS LIKELY TO OPPOSE
ANY MOVES TO ASSIGN AN OVERT MULTILATERAL DEFENSE/SECURITY ROLE
TO ASEAN, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO FOCUS ON BILATERAL SECURITY
COOPERATION WHERE DEEMED APPROPRIATE (WITH SINGAPORE THIS IS
LIMITED BASICALLY TO POLICE COOPERATION IN THE SPECIAL BRANCH FIELD).
IN THIS REGARD, DEC 4 "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) EDITORIALIZED
IN RESPONSE TO THANIN'S REMARK ON A POSSIBLE REGIONAL SECURITY
ARRANGEMENT TO DEAL WITH THE COMMUNIST THREAT
(REF B), THAT "SOUTHEAST ASIANS DO NOT NEED ANOTHER SEATO."
ACCORDING TO THE NST, INCLINATIONS TO FORGE AN ANTI-COMMUNIST
MILITARY GROUPING SHOULD BE RESISTED "FOR THE PRESENT"SINCE
"AS LONG AS THERE IS NO MAJOR EXTERNAL AGGRESSION AND THE
COMMUNIST THREAT REMAINS BASICALLY INTERNAL, THE PRESENT
SYSTEM OF BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION (OF WHICH THE
COOPERATION BETWEEN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA IN THE BORDER
AREA -- SIC -- AND BWTWEEN MALAYSIA IN BORNEO
ARE EXAMPLES) IS GOOD ENOUGH."
UNDERHILL

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